(b) whether it is a fact that according to the Wealth Tax Act notice given to the rulers of the erstwhile princely States, they are the only custodians of heirlooms and regalia items;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take effective steps to stop such sales; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Government is aware of the publication of a news item captioned "Sheikhs eye Indian heirlooms" published in *The Sunday Mail* dated 21st July, 1991.

(b) to (d) Under the Wealth Tax Act, 1957 and the Wealth Tax Rules 1958, former rulers can seek wealth tax exemption on heirloom jewellery in their possession as per procedure laid down under those rules. Infringement of conditions laid down for grant of such exemption would lead to levy of wealth tax on such items.

Handing over to Travancore House to Government of Kerala

1292-D. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested for release of the Travancore House to the State Government;

(b) if so, by when the building is likely to be released to the State Government; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in releasing the building?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The building is presently occupied by Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission and Director General of Investigation and Registration. Alternative accommodation allotted to them in Kota House Annexe and Bikaner House Hutments have been under renovation by the C.P.W.D. The Commission|Director General of Investigation and Registration propose to start shifting to the new premises shortly.

Scope of Equity Fund Scheme

1292-E. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the scope of National Equity Fund Scheme has been enlarged to cover projects upto Rs. 10 lacs and equity type of assistance under the scheme has been reduced to Rs. 15 lacs; and

(b) whether the equity assistance scheme shall now be operated through Banks also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Government have recently enhanced the ceiling on capital cost of projects eligible for assistance under the National Equity Fund Scheme to Rs. 10.00 lakhs Ceiling for equity type of assistance per unit has been enhanced from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1,50,000.

(b) National Equity Fund Scheme is already being operated through Scheduled Commercial Banks.

Role of financial institutions in take over bids of companies

1292-F. SHRI DHULEHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent statement of Chairman, Investment